

Jesus Met a Samaritan Woman

BIBLE PASSAGE: John 4:1-42

MAIN POINT: Jesus told the Samaritan woman He is God's Son.

KEY PASSAGE: John 14:6

BIG PICTURE QUESTION: Who did Jesus say He is? Jesus said He is God's Son.

SMALL GROUP OPENING

(15–20 MINUTES)

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LARGE GROUP BIBLE STUDY

(10–15 MINUTES)

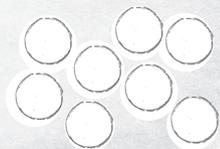
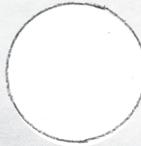
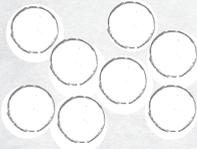
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SMALL GROUP ACTIVITIES

(20–25 MINUTES)

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Leader BIBLE STUDY

At the time Jesus was on earth, the social food chain went like this: Jews don't talk to Samaritans. The strife between the two groups stretched back hundreds of years, to the Babylonian exile.

When the Babylonians attacked Judah, they moved a large group of God's people away from their homes. But some of the people—the poorest, sickest, least able to work—were left behind in the region that became known as Samaria. The exile lasted 70 years. During that time, those left in Samaria began to mingle with their neighbors to the north. They intermarried and practiced foreign customs. While the Samaritans still believed in God, they adapted their beliefs.

The Jews who returned home from Babylon to rebuild God's temple in Jerusalem rejected this new way of life. They were dedicated to obeying and worshiping God, and they didn't agree with the Samaritans' practices. The Samaritans opposed the Jews' efforts to reestablish their nation. In time, the Jews' hate for the Samaritans grew—so much so, that a Jew traveling from Judea to Galilee would take a longer route to travel around Samaria rather than through it.

Jesus broke down barriers when He traveled to Galilee by way of Samaria. Even more surprising, Jesus stopped at a well around noon and asked a Samaritan woman for a drink. Jewish men did not speak to women in public.

But Jesus was kind to her, and He offered a gift—living water. The woman didn't understand, but Jesus revealed His knowledge of her past. He even gave her a glimpse of the future. The Samaritan woman expected a Messiah to come and fix everything. Jesus said, "I am He."

Explain to preschoolers that the living water Jesus offers is the Holy Spirit. (See John 7:37-39.) It is a gift that He is eager to give us when we ask Him. Those who receive His grace will never be thirsty again.



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Additional resources for each session are available at gospelproject.com. For free training and session-by-session help, visit www.ministrygrid.com/web/thegospelproject.

The BIBLE STORY

Bible Storytelling Tips

Jesus Met a Samaritan Woman

John 4:1-42

• Use a felt board:

Create felt figures by printing an extra Bible story picture onto thick paper. Cut out the well, Jesus, and woman figures. Attach a strip of felt onto the back. Cover a sheet of cardboard with a large piece of felt. Place the figures onto the felt board as they are mentioned in the story.

- ### • Build a well:
- Invite preschoolers to bring blocks to large group time. Construct a crude well with the blocks and sit around it. Tell the story around the well.

Jesus had been teaching in the land of Judea, and a group of Jesus' friends followed Him. The men were called His *disciples*. Many people began following Jesus, and they listened to Him teach. Now it was time for Jesus to leave Judea.

Jesus traveled back toward the land of Galilee. Between the land of Judea and the land of Galilee was the land of Samaria. Usually the people of Israel stayed away from Samaria; they did not get along with the people there. Even though traveling through Samaria was the fastest way home, they took the long way around.

But Jesus was not like the other Jews. On His way home, He traveled right through the land of Samaria. He stopped at one of the towns where there was a well. Jesus stayed at the well, and His friends went into town to buy food.

A woman who lived in Samaria came to the well to get water. Jesus said to the woman, "Give Me a drink."

The woman was surprised. "I am a Samaritan," she said. "Why are you talking to me?"

Jesus said, "I asked you for a drink. You do not know who I am. If you did, you would have asked Me for a drink. I would give you living water."

The woman was confused. Jesus did not have any water with Him. He did not even have a bucket to get water out of the well.

"Sir," the woman said, "where do You get 'living water'?"

"Anyone who drinks the water from this well will be

thirsty again,” Jesus said, “but anyone who drinks the water I give will never get thirsty again!” That sounded wonderful! **But Jesus wasn’t talking about actual water. He was talking about God’s Spirit.** Whoever has God’s Spirit will have eternal life. **But the woman did not understand.**

“**Sir, I want living water,**” she said. “Then I won’t have to keep coming to this well to get water with my bucket.”

“Go get your husband,” Jesus said.

“I do not have a husband,” the woman said.

Jesus knew she was telling the truth. **Jesus knew everything about the woman. The woman** could tell Jesus was wise, so she **asked Him a question about worshipping God.** Then **she said, “I know the Messiah is coming.** He will explain everything to us.”

Jesus said, “I am the Messiah.”

The woman left and told the people in her town what had happened. Many people believed in Jesus because of what the woman said. Jesus stayed in the town for two days, and many more people believed in Him. **The people said, “We have heard for ourselves and know that this really is the Savior of the world.”**

Christ Connection: Jesus was different from other people on earth. He was kind to the woman at the well even though she didn’t have many friends. Jesus loves everyone, and He came to give people a free gift: salvation from sin.



**WANT TO
DISCOVER
GOD’S WORD?
GET
MORE!**

Invite preschoolers to check out this week’s devotionals to discover that the Samaritan woman went home to tell others about Jesus. Peter and John later said that Christians can’t help but share the good news! (Acts 4:20) Order in bulk, subscribe quarterly, or purchase individually. For more information, check out www.lifeway.com/devotionals.

Small Group OPENING

SESSION TITLE: Jesus Met a Samaritan Woman

BIBLE PASSAGE: John 4:1-42

MAIN POINT: Jesus told the Samaritan woman He is God's Son.

KEY PASSAGE: John 14:6

BIG PICTURE QUESTION: Who did Jesus say He is? Jesus said He is God's Son.

Welcome time

- "That's What Jesus Did" song
- offering basket
- Allergy Alert download
- favorite toys related to the Bible story theme

Play the unit theme song in the background as you greet preschoolers and follow your church's security procedures. Set an offering basket near the door to collect at an appropriate time. Post an allergy alert, if necessary. Set out a few favorite theme-related toys, such as puzzles and blocks.

Activity page

- "Finish the Pattern" activity page, 1 per child
- pencils or crayons

Assist preschoolers in identifying the pictures in each row. Study the patterns. Encourage preschoolers to choose the option that comes next and circle it.

SAY • All these pictures remind me of today's Bible story. Jesus met a woman at a well while she was collecting water.

Serve water and answer a question

Place disposable cups next to a pitcher of water. Post the big picture question poster nearby. Offer a drink of water to a child. Ask the question as you pour and encourage a child to answer the question before she takes a drink.

SAY • Do you remember the answer to our big picture question? *Who did Jesus say He is? Jesus said He*



- disposable cups
- pitcher
- water
- Big Picture Question Poster

is God's Son. In today's story, Jesus asked a woman from Samaria to give Him a drink of water, and she did. The woman was surprised that Jesus was kind to her. He helped her understand that He is God's Son

Follow paths

Affix two taped paths to the floor, using different colored tape. Both paths will begin and end in the same locations. Use the "Bible Times Map" printable as a guide to make one path that is a straight, direct way to reach the destination, while the alternate path winds out of the way. Place the map at the destination. Gather preschoolers at the starting point. Ask preschoolers which path makes the most sense. Lead preschoolers to walk along both paths counting their steps. Determine which is the shortest route. Show preschoolers the "Bible Times Map."

SAY • The paths we followed look like the ones marked on this map. This map shows the land where Jesus traveled. Jesus needed to go to Galilee. Most Jewish people took a long way because they didn't want to travel through Samaria. They did not like the Samaritan people, but that did not matter to Jesus. Jesus loves all people. He went straight into Samaria and even talked to a woman who lived there.

Transition to Bible study

To gain the attention of all the preschoolers to move them to Bible study, show the countdown video, flip off the lights, or clap a simple rhythm for the children to copy. Suggest preschoolers walk in either a straight or curvy line to the Bible study area.



- colored masking tape, 2 colors
- "Bible Times Map" printable

- countdown video (optional)

Large Group LEADER

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Introduce the Bible story

- mobile phone or tablet
- "Bible Times Map" printable

Use a mapping application on a mobile phone or tablet to identify a route to a location familiar to the group. Show preschoolers the "Bible Times Map."

SAY • When Jesus was on earth, the Jewish people took the long way so they did not have to travel through Samaria. In today's Bible story, Jesus traveled through Samaria, stopped there, *and* talked to a Samaritan woman. Listen to what happened.

Watch or tell the Bible story

- bookmark
- Bible
- "Jesus Met a Samaritan Woman" video
- Bible Story Picture Poster

Place a bookmark at John 4 in your Bible. Invite a preschooler to open it. Reverently display the open Bible.

SAY • We call the Bible *God's Word* because it has God's words in it. The Bible is the only book with God's true words in it. Today's Bible story is in the Book of John. Show the video or tell the Bible story using the provided storytelling helps. Use the bolded version of the Bible story for young preschoolers.

Talk about the Bible story

- Main Point Poster
- Giant Timeline or Big Story Circle

SAY • Jesus always surprised His friends. He was kind to

the woman at the well. **Jesus told the Samaritan woman He is God's Son.** The woman told others about Jesus and many people believed in Him.

Point to the Bible story picture on the giant timeline or big story circle as you ask the following review questions:

1. Why did most Jews travel the long way to stay away from Samaria? (*The Jews did not get along with the Samaritan people.*)
2. Where did Jesus stop to rest in Samaria? (*by a well*)
3. What did Jesus ask the Samaritan woman to give to Him? (*a drink of water from the well*)
4. What did Jesus say He would give the woman if she asked for a drink? (*living water*)
5. Was Jesus talking about actual water? (*No, Jesus was talking about God's Spirit.*)

Learn the big picture question

SAY • *Who did Jesus say He is? Jesus said He is God's*

Son. Jesus is different from all other people on earth.

Jesus is God's Son. Jesus loves everyone, and He came to give people a free gift: salvation from sin.

• Big Picture Question
Poster

Practice the key passage

Open your Bible to John 14:6. Read the key passage aloud several times. Sing together the key passage song, "John 14:6" song.

SAY • Jesus said He is the life. Only Jesus can give people life forever with God because He is the Messiah. Jesus is the One God promised to send.

• Key Passage Poster
• "John 14:6" song

Transition to small groups

Small Group ACTIVITIES

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- book depicting people
- Bible

Think about what Jesus would do

Explain to preschoolers that you will show them a book, but you are not going to read it. Instead you all are going to decide what is happening by looking at the pictures. Then you will think about what Jesus would do if He were in the picture. Encourage creativity. Remind preschoolers that Jesus is different from people on earth. Jesus is kind and loves all people.

SAY • It is fun to think about what Jesus would do. [*Hold up a Bible.*] We have the Bible to show us what Jesus really did! Jesus was different from other people on earth. He was kind to the woman at the well even though she didn't have many friends. **Jesus told the Samaritan woman He is God's Son.** Jesus loves everyone, and He came to give people a free gift: salvation from sin.

- electronic tablet or smartphone
- hula hoop
- blocks
- small bucket with handle
- rope

Construct a well

Place the Bible story picture near blocks. Search for "Bible times well" on a smartphone and show preschoolers what the well may have looked like. Use the hoop as a guide and stack blocks to build a well. Tie a rope to the bucket handle

and pretend to draw water from the well.

SAY • Jesus talked to the Samaritan woman and asked her to get Him some water to drink from the well. **Jesus told the Samaritan woman He is God's Son.** He was kind to the woman and told her that He came to give people a free gift: salvation from sin.

Decorate pottery

Arrange clay materials (pots, tile squares, coasters) in the art area. Provide colored permanent markers; supervise marker use closely. Encourage boys and girls to decorate pottery. Suggest a child make colorful designs, draw pictures, or print the session's main point.

SAY • People in Bible times would get water from a well. They carried water in pots made of clay. The Samaritan woman in today's story was getting water at a well. She gave water to Jesus to drink. The woman didn't have many friends, but Jesus was kind to her. **Jesus told the Samaritan woman that He is God's Son.** He showed her that He loves everyone, and He came to give people the free gift of salvation from sin.

- clay materials (pot, tile squares, or coasters)
- colored permanent markers
- paint smocks

Tip: Baby wipes are good for cleaning permanent marker off of skin.

Scoop water

Fill a tub with a couple inches of water, and set it on a towel on a table. Place bowls around it. Provide ladles and other scooping materials. Encourage preschoolers to transfer water from the tub into the bowls, and back again. Open a Bible to the key passage and show it to a child as she waits a turn.

SAY • The Samaritan woman scooped water from the well and gave some to Jesus to drink. Jesus helped the woman to know that He is the only way to get to

- Bible
- towel
- tub of water
- bowls
- ladles or other scooping tools (measuring cups, pipettes, plastic spoons)

God. The Bible tells us this in the Book of John. Jesus came to give people a free gift: salvation from sin. *Who did Jesus say He is? Jesus said He is God's Son.*

Collect bottled water to distribute

Before the session, cut strips of paper to fit around a bottle of water. Write the main point on each strip. Provide several strips for each preschooler and guide them to decorate the strips. Assist preschoolers in taping their decorated strips around bottles of water. Plan to distribute the water in one of these ways or develop your own distribution method.

- Plan a class playdate at a public park. Refrigerate the water ahead of time. Lead preschoolers to give out the decorated water bottles to people at the park while an adult supervises. Challenge preschoolers to share what they remember from the story “Jesus Met a Samaritan Woman” with the people they meet.
- Send several water bottles home with preschoolers and challenge them to work with their family to distribute the bottles to people in their neighborhood.
- Donate the decorated water bottles to a local ministry that serves people in need.

SAY • Only Jesus can give people living water that leads to eternal life, but we can share these bottles of water and God’s love with people. **Jesus told the Samaritan woman He is God’s Son.** The woman left and told the people in her town what had happened. Many people believed in Jesus because of what the woman said. We can point people to Jesus so they receive His free gift: salvation from sin.

- bottled water
- paper
- scissors
- markers
- stickers
- tape

Tip: You may also print the main point on adhesive mailing labels.

Option: Consider contacting preschool families before the session and asking them to donate bottled water.

Snack

Play the countdown video to signal the end of activities. Guide preschoolers to clean their areas. Take a restroom break and wash hands. Gather preschoolers for snack time. Thank God for the snack.

Serve water along with snack. Remind preschoolers that the Samaritan woman met Jesus when she came to the well to get water. Jesus was different from other people on earth. He was kind to the woman at the well even though she didn't have many friends. **Jesus told the Samaritan woman He is God's Son.** Jesus loves everyone, and He came to give people a free gift: salvation from sin.

- countdown video (optional)
- Allergy Alert download
- snack food
- paper cups and napkins

Transition

When a child finishes his snack, guide him to throw away any trash. He may select a book or puzzle to examine, play quietly with play dough or a favorite toy, or color the Bible story coloring page.

Offer the journal page and invite preschoolers to draw a picture of a well. Remind preschoolers that Jesus gives people living water. Living water is not water we can drink. Living water is God's free gift: salvation from sin. Pray for the children.

SAY • God, thank You that Your Son was not like other people. Jesus loves everyone, including us. Thank You that when we turn from sin and trust in Jesus, You save us from sin. Amen.

If parents are picking up their children at this time, tell them something that their child enjoyed doing or did well during the session. Distribute the preschool big picture cards for families.

- books
- puzzles
- play dough
- Journal Page printable, 1 per child
- Bible Story Coloring Page
- crayons
- *Big Picture Cards for Families: Babies, Toddlers, and Preschoolers*